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COME BACK...
COME BACK...
"COME BACK TO TLAKLUX"
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ALL HIS LIFE HARRY SMART WAS A HEAVY GAMBLER ... HE PRAYED FOR WINNERS THE WAY SOME PEOPLE PRAY FOR WORTHY CAUSES! IT HAPPENED ONE NIGHT IN A SMOKE-FILLED ROOM ... HE MADE A BAD BET, A BLUFF ... IT WAS HIS LAST DOLLAR .. AND HE SHUT HIS EYES AND PRAYED TO THE GOD WHO RULES ON POKER, HORSE RACES, AND CRAP GAMES ... AND HIS PRAYER WAS ANSWERED!

THAT WAS THE TURNING POINT! HARRY SMART SUDDENLY BECAME A WINNER STARTIN' THAT SAME NIGHT...

I NEVER SEEN NOBODY WIT' YOUR LUCK, HARRY! NO HARD FEELIN'S AN' ALL ... JUST DON'T COME BACK!
I DON'T NEED THIS CRUMMY GAME NOHOW! I'M GOIN' BIG TIME!

GHOST MANOR

GHOST MANOR Vol. 2, No. 4, April, 1972,
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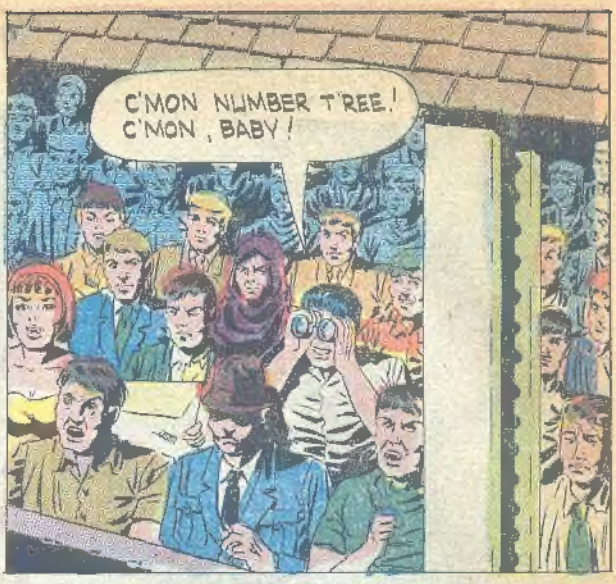
...WON EVERY POT...NEVER HAD LUCK LIKE THAT BEFORE..CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
HOLD IT HARRY...WHERE'S MY SHARE OF THE WINNINGS?
HUH?
YOU PRAYED ,HARRY...YOU SAID YOU'D GIVE ANYTHING TO BE A WINNER...IT'S TIME TO PAYOFF!
KALYO
TA
YOU OUGHTA BE LOCKED UP, YA OLD NUT! WHAT IF I DID WIN TONIGHT? I'M NOT SPLITTIN' WIT' YOU!
ALL RIGHT, HARRY...YOU NEVER WERE ANY GOOD...
DON'T PUT THAT EVIL EYE ON ME, YA HAG! THAT WON'T STOP ME FROM WINNING!
SINCE WINNING MEANS EVERYTHING TO YOU, HARRY...I'LL FIX IT SO YOU CAN'T LOSE!

HARRY WAS CONVINCED... ALMOST! HE STUMBLED TO HIS CHEAP HOTEL ROOM, POCKETS BULGING WITH MONEY, DREAMING OF GREATER RICHES TO COME!

YES, SHE MEANT HE'D WIN ON HORSES TOO! THE FIRST HORSE HARRY SMART BET WAS A FAVORITE ... AN 8 TO 5 SHOT...



THE WITCH, OF COURSE, WAS RIGHT ... NO RACE IS 'OFFICIAL' ... THAT IS, THE WINNER CONFIRMED AND THE WINNING PRICES POSTED, UNTIL THE RACE OFFICIALS SAY IT WAS A CLEAN, FAIR RACE! THIS TIME THERE WAS AN OBJECTION BY A LOSING JOCKEY

CONTINUED AFTER THE NEXT PAGE

YES, HARRY WON...THAT RACE AND EVERY OTHER RACE!
HARRY, WE WON AGAIN! WHO'LL WE BET IN THE NEXT RACE? LISTEN I GOT A TIP ON NUMBER TWO...
IT DON'T MATTER, ETHEL!
...NO MATTER WHO I BET, IT'LL WIN! C'MON, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
HAVE A GOOD TIME, HARRY? HEE HEE HEE!
DO YOU KNOW HER, HARRY?
YOU MUST REALIZE BY NOW THAT HARRY WAS A COMPULSIVE GAMBLER... GAMBLING WAS LIKE FOOD AND DRINK TO HIM! DICE... CARDS... HE USED TO GAMBLE EVERY NIGHT UNTIL...
BAH! THE SCHMOE DIDN'T LOSE A HAND!
I'LL NEVER SIT IN A GAME WITH HARRY SMART AGAIN ...AND NEITHER WILL THE OTHER GUYS IN TOWN!
WORD GOT AROUND. WHEN HARRY WENT TO LAS VEGAS, HE HEADED HAPPILY FOR THE CRAPS TABLE...

COME ON, SOMEBODY... LOOK, I'LL BET YA FIVE T' ONE I THROW BOXCARS TEN TIMES IN A ROW! NOBODY EVER DID THAT!
BUT THEY WOULDN'T BET! HARRY COULDN'T FIND ACTION!
WHAT A CLIMATE! THE SUN SHINES ALL THE TIME!
I'LL BET IT RAINS IN FIVE MINUTES! TEN BUCKS!
YOU'RE ON... THAT WAS A STUPID BET!
HERE... HOLD THE BET 'TIL YOU FEEL RAINDROPS FALLING ON YOUR HEAD!
IT HAPPENED! KEEP AWAY FROM ME, WEIRDO!
SUDDENLY, HARRY SMART WAS A VERY UNHAPPY MAN! WHAT GOOD IS WINNING EVERY BET TO A COMPULSIVE GAMBLER? HE WAS BARRED FROM ALL GAMES... NO BOOKIE WOULD BET WITH HIM... NOW HE PRAYED TO LOSE! HE WENT SEARCHING FOR THE WITCH...
P-PLEASE, LADY... LET ME OFFA THE HOOK! LEMME LOSE ONCE IN A WHILE! GET OUTA MY LIFE!
YOU'LL NEVER LOSE ANOTHER BET, WELSHER! YOU'VE GOT A WINNER'S CURSE!

IF YOU DO LOSE A BET, HARRY, YOU'LL BREAK THE SPELL I CAST!
I'LL LOSE, YOU HAG! I'LL FIND A LOSER!
BUT HE DIDN'T! NO MATTER WHAT HE BET... HE WON!
LOOKIT! THIS BAG O' BONES IS RACIN'! I'LL BET HE CAN'T WALK SEVEN FURLONGS... EVEN IF THE JOCKEY KNEW WHICH WAY TO STEER!
SO HARRY BETS ELEVEN...
ONE TICKET ON ELEVEN...
HERE Y'ARE, TIGER ...NEXT!
AND NATURALLY, ELEVEN COMES FLYING DOWN THE STRETCH ...A 1000 TO 1 SHOT WINS!
YOU BET THAT PIG? HOW LUCKY CAN YA GET!
JUST CASH THE TICKET, PAL... DON'T TELL ME HOW LUCKY I AM!
A WISE GUY! THIS AIN'T A TICKET ON ELEVEN! THIS IS A TICKET ON SEVEN!
SEVEN? YOU MEAN I DIDN'T WIN?
I ASKED FOR NUMBER ELEVEN! THE TICKET SELLER MADE A MISTAKE ...GAVE ME ONE ON SEVEN! YOUR SPELL IS BROKEN!
THAT'S RIGHT! THE GUY GOOFED!
2.00
OH WELL... AS THEY SAY... YOU CAN'T WIN 'EM ALL!
I'LL PROB'LY GET KICKED OUT OF THE UNION FOR THIS! (SIGH)
END

THE SORCERESS OF GALLOWS HILL

THEY CALLED THIS GALLOWS HILL BACK IN THE 17TH CENTURY...HERE TRAITORS AND MURDERERS PAID FOR THEIR CRIMES...HERE THEY LAY BURIED! AND HERE CAME MADAME KURKA WITH HER INVOCATIONS OF EVIL...FOR WHAT PURPOSE WE SHALL SOON DISCOVER!
SHUVA, GODDESS OF EVIL, HEAR MY PRAYER! I, KURKA, HAVE BEEN BANISHED FROM THE VILLAGE! THEY CONDEMNED ME AND STONED ME AS I FLED!
I SEEK VENGEANCE, SHUVA!
NICHOLAS IASCIA

HOW, MADAME KURKA? DO YOU HAVE A PLAN?

HERE, ON GALLOWS HILL, ARE BURIED MEN OF EVIL, YOUR FOLLOWERS, O SHUVA! RESTORE LIFE TO THEM... LET THEM HELP ME DESTROY THOSE WHO CONDEMNED THEM AND ME!

BEWARE, WATCHERS IN THE NIGHT... FOR THIS SHUVA TO WHOM THE SORCERESS PRAYS, IS THE MISTRESS OF ALL EVIL...AND THE INCANTATIONS CHANTED IN A STRANGE TONGUE MAY BRING DISASTER TO GALLOWS HILL!
JEL GOLAN MOOM SHUVA!

KRAASSH
THE LIGHTNING IS YOUR SIGN, O SHUVA... YOU HAVE HEARD ME... WHAT IS YOUR REPLY?
I COME FROM SHUVA, MADAME KURKA!

SHUVA SENT ME! OTHERS WILL ALSO ANSWER YOUR EVIL PRAYER!

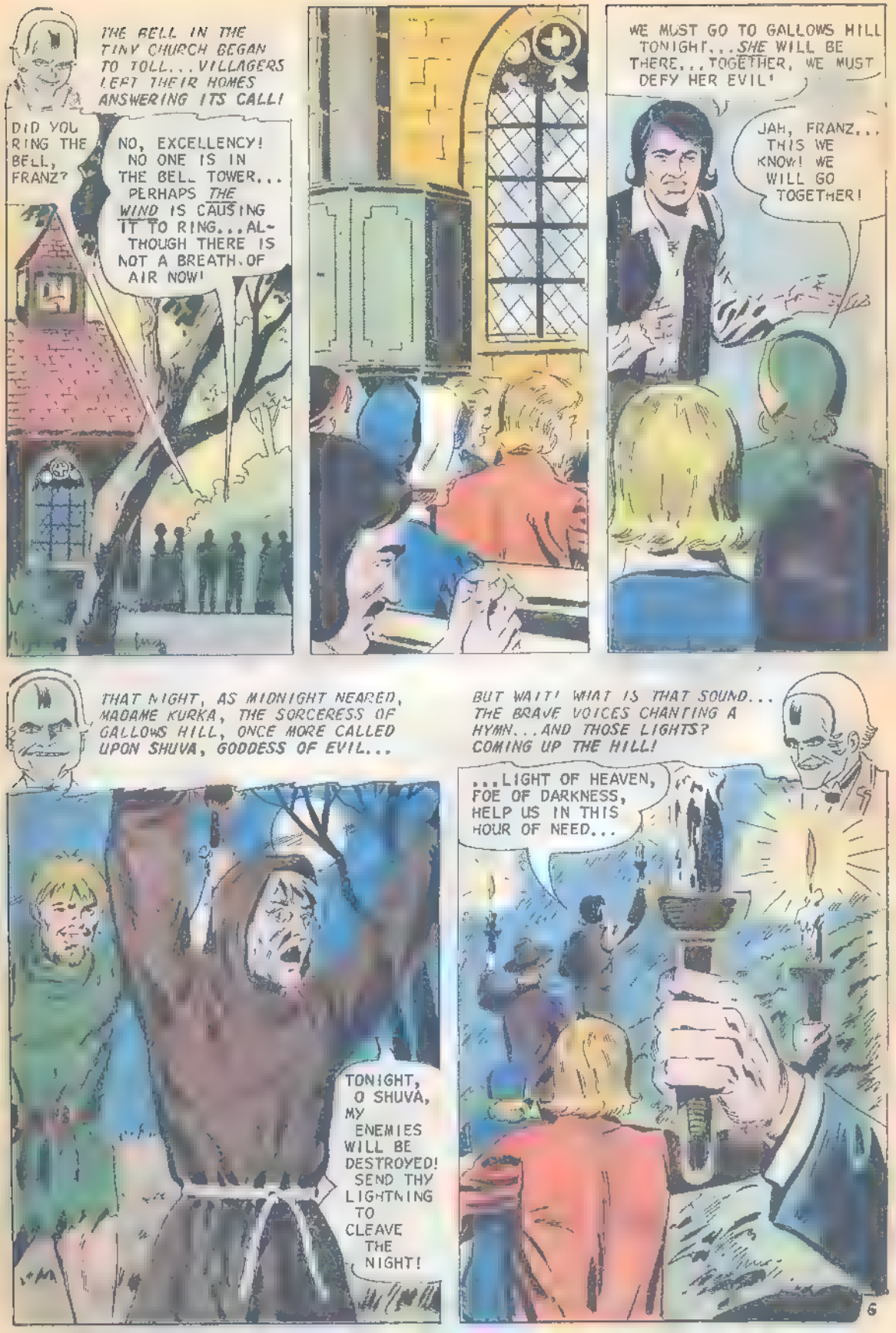
ONCE AGAIN, LIGHTNING STRUCK THE GALLOWS FROM A CLOUDLESS SKY AND...
I WAS BORIS ...I WAS THE MOST EVIL MAN OF MY TIME! I WILL SERVE YOU, MADAME KURKA!
BORIS...THE THIEF AND MURDERER... EVEN NOW, FOOLS TREMBLE AT THE MENTION OF YOUR NAME!

FOUR TIMES, THE LIGHTNING CRASHED ON GALLOWS HILL... IN THE VILLAGE BELOW, ALARMED RESIDENTS, AWAKENED BY THE DIN, WATCHED IN FRIGHTENED AWE AS THE LIGHTNING STRUCK FOUR TIMES!
I WARNED YOU ALL AT THE TOWN MEETING, FRANZ...MADAME KURKA WILL MAKE US REGRET CONDEMNING HER!
SHE CAST SPELLS UPON SOME OF US! OUR CROPS DIED IN THE FIELDS... THE CATTLE SICKENED AND DID NOT GIVE MILK ...OUR CHILDREN WERE FRIGHTENED BY HER!
FRANZ, COME INSIDE ...QUICKLY ...EVIL IS ABROAD THIS NIGHT!
I DO NOT FEAR HER INCANTATIONS! GOODNESS WILL ALWAYS TRIUMPH OVER EVIL!
SAFE, INSIDE HIS COTTAGE, FRANZ AND KATERINA, HIS WIFE, BARRED THE DOOR AND SHUTTERED THE WINDOWS... THEN THEY FELT SAFE...BUT WERE THEY REALLY?
WAAGHH
HUSH, LITTLE ONE ...THE OLD SORCERESS CANNOT HARM US NOW!
IT'S WARM IN HERE, WIFE... THAT IS WHY OUR CHILD CRIES!
HEE HEE HEE HEE! FRANZ LODVICHOW KNOWS NOW THAT BARRED DOORS AND SHUTTERED WINDOWS CANNOT THWART MY WILL!

CONTINUED AFTER THE NEXT PAGE

THE SORCERESS OF GALLOWS HILL PROWLED THE TOWN...HER EVIL MINIONS SOUGHT OUT THOSE GOOD MEN WHO HAD DEFIED HER EVIL POWER!
SMASH IT IN! THIS NIGHT I SHALL NOT BE DENIED!
KRAASH
GET OUT, YOU EVIL HAG!
YOU SET YOUR DOGS ON ME, MAYOR! NOW, IT'S YOUR TURN TO BE PUNISHED!
BLAM
YOU FOOL! KNOW YOU NOT I AM BEYOND HURT FROM SUCH AS YOU?

IT WAS THAT WITCH, MADAME KURKA! A HULKING CREATURE SMASHED IN MY DOOR...THEN, SHE CAST A SPELL THAT DESTROYED ALL THAT WE POSSESSED!
THE INVOKED DEAD OF GALLOWS HILL RAMPAGED THROUGH THE TOWN...
AS THE SUN ROSE...
THEY'RE GONE, FRANZ...IS IT OVER?
THE HATRED THAT BURNED IN KURKA'S EYES CAN NOT BE SATISFIED IN JUST ONE NIGHT, EXCELLENCY!
SHE WILL RETURN...WITH THE GALLOWS BAIT WHO HELPED HER RAVAGE OUR VILLAGE THIS NIGHT!
WE MUST DO SOMETHING... BUT WHAT? IF THE PRIEST WERE HERE, HE COULD HOLD A MEETING...WE COULD PRAY...
WE CAN ALL PRAY ANYHOW, EXCELLENCY! PRAY FOR COURAGE... AND WISDOM!


THE BELL IN THE TINY CHURCH BEGAN TO TOLL... VILLAGERS LEFT THEIR HOMES ANSWERING ITS CALL!
DID YOU RING THE BELL, FRANZ?
NO, EXCELLENCY! NO ONE IS IN THE BELL TOWER... PERHAPS THE WIND IS CAUSING IT TO RING... ALTHOUGH THERE IS NOT A BREATH OF AIR NOW!
WE MUST GO TO GALLOWS HILL TONIGHT... SHE WILL BE THERE... TOGETHER, WE MUST DEFY HER EVIL!
JAH, FRANZ... THIS WE KNOW! WE WILL GO TOGETHER!
THAT NIGHT, AS MIDNIGHT NEARED, MADAME KURKA, THE SORCERESS OF GALLOWS HILL, ONCE MORE CALLED UPON SHUVA, GODDESS OF EVIL...
TONIGHT, O SHUVA, MY ENEMIES WILL BE DESTROYED! SEND THY LIGHTNING TO CLEAVE THE NIGHT!
BUT WAIT! WHAT IS THAT SOUND... THE BRAVE VOICES CHANTING A HYMN... AND THOSE LIGHTS? COMING UP THE HILL!
...LIGHT OF HEAVEN, FOE OF DARKNESS, HELP US IN THIS HOUR OF NEED...

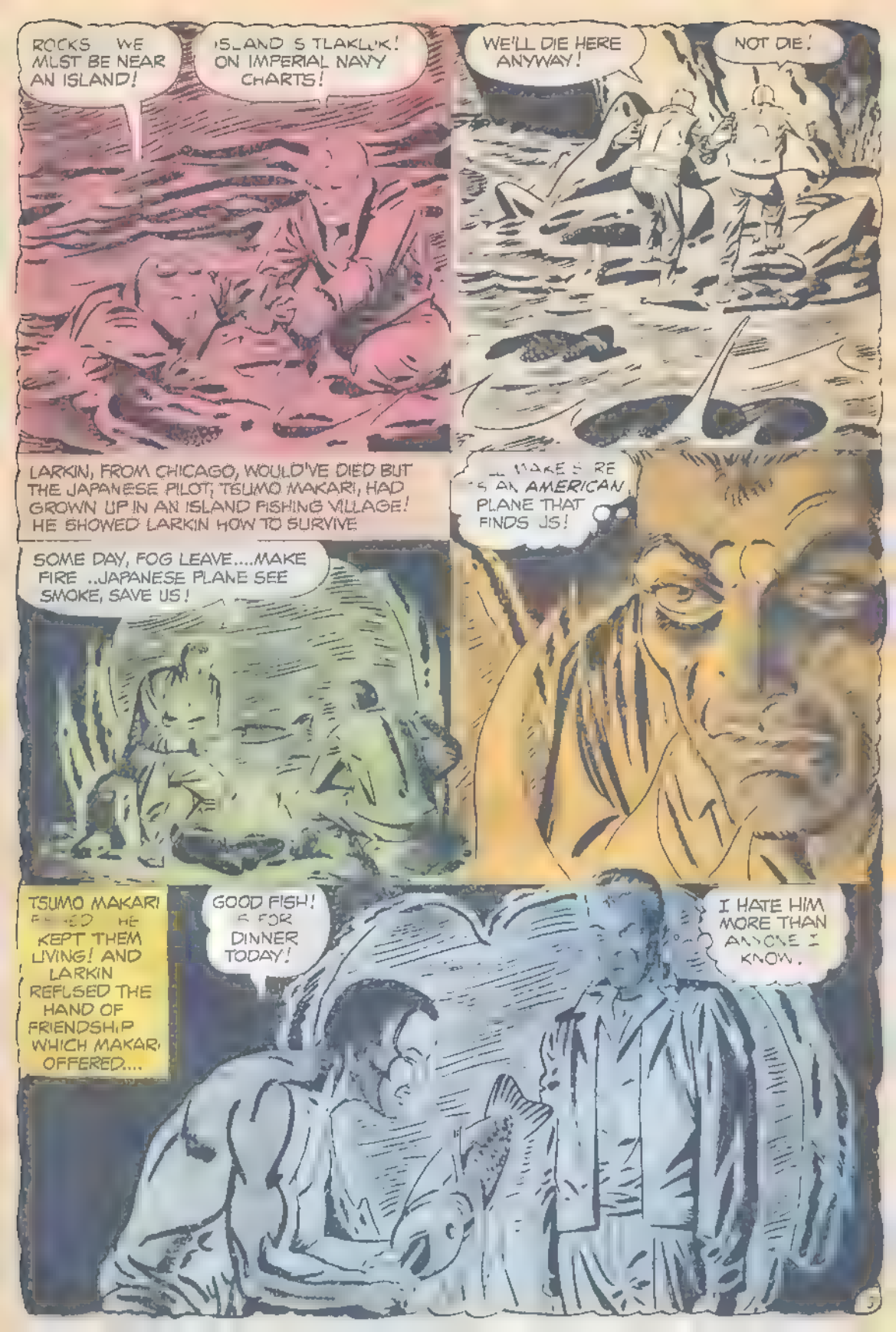
THE SORCERESS HEARD THEIR HYMN. .AND SHE SCREAMED THE WORDS INVOKING THE EVIL POWER OF SHUVA...
JEL GOLAN MOOM SHUVA!
STRIKE THEM DOWN, SHUVA!
LEAVE US, WOMAN! GO OFF INTO THE DARKNESS! DO NOT EVER LET PERSONS OF GOOD WILL SEE THY FACE AGAIN!
HEEHEEHEEHEE ...YOU FOOL, YOU AND THE OTHERS ARE ABOUT TO KNOW MY POWER!
THE LIGHTNING, SHUVA! TAKE HIM!
NO, KURKA! WE ARE NO LONGER ALONE! YOUR POWER IS LESS THAN OURS!
ALL THERE WERE BLINDED BY THE SUDDEN RIPPING BLAST OF LIGHTNING! WAS IT IN ANSWER TO THE SORCERESS'S PRAYER OR
AS THEIR VISION RETURNED, THE VILLAGERS BLINKED IN AWE ..THE GALLOWS BLAZED IN LIGHTNING-FIRE .AND THERE WAS NOUGHT TO BE SEEN OF THE SORCERESS OF GALLOWS HILL! HER EVIL HAD BEEN BURNED AWAY!
IT IS ENDED! LET US GIVE THANKS, MY FRIENDS...
END

COME BACK...
GHOSTLY UP HERE IN THE DAMP FOG OF THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS, ISN'T IT? THAT DISMAL MOAN YOU HEAR ISN'T A GHOST AS YOU MIGHT THINK... IT'S A FOG BEACON PLACED ON THE TIP OF THIS UNINHABITED SPECK OF LAND LONG LOST IN ALEUTIAN FOGS... IT WAS NAMED TLAKLUK LONG AGO BY THE ALEUT INDIANS... MEANING "PLACE OF DEATH"... A VERY FITTING NAME AS WE SHALL SEE. THE FISHING TRAWLER, MARY-J III, IS IN DANGEROUS WATERS.
THERE AREN'T ANY CHARTS, MR. LARKIN! I'LL ONLY APPROACH TLAKLUK IF YOU RADIO ME WITH THIS WALKIE-TALKIE!
DON'T WORRY, CAPTAIN HANSEN! I'LL RADIO YOU WITHIN FOUR HOURS! I'VE JUST GOT TO FIND SOMEONE THERE.
TO TLAKLUK
I MUST BE CERTAIN..
HE'S DEAD!

ACTUALLY, TO TELL THIS STORY PROPERLY WE MUST BEGIN LONG BEFORE AMOS LARKIN'S RETURN TO TARAWA. IN FACT IT STARTED IN 1942 WHEN A JAPANESE FIGHTER PLANE CLOSED IN ON A NAVY RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT SOMEWHERE IN THE AUSTRALIANE.
JAP ZERO, LARKIN. DO YOUR BEST. I'LL DIVE FOR THAT FOG BANK!
BRRRRT
BRRRRRRT!
DOWN INTO THE DANK, CHILL FOG... LIKE THE GHOSTS OF INSANE MEN LOST IN A FORBIDDEN WORLD.
GET HIM BEFORE HE GETS US, LARKIN!

AAHHH
FREEZING
CONTINUED AFTER THE NEXT TWO PAGES

LARKIN'S LIFE-VEST KEPT HIM AFLOAT BUT TO WHAT GOOD? HIS NUMBED BRAIN TOLD HIM DEATH WAS VERY NEAR HE COULDN'T SEE BEYOND A FEW FEET OF FOG-SWATCHED WATER
HELP! HELP!
I'M A FOOL! THERE ISN'T A LIVING SOUL WITHIN A HUNDRED MILES.
HELP!
SOMEONE HELP ME!!
IT'S YOU....THE JAP FIGHTER PILOT ... YOU SHOT US DOWN
YOU FOLLOW!
Y-YOU'RE STILL TRYING TO KILL ME!
DAM FOOL I TRY TO SAVE


ROCKS WE MUST BE NEAR AN ISLAND!
'SLAND S TLAKL'K! ON IMPERIAL NAVY CHARTS!
WE'LL DIE HERE ANYWAY!
NOT DIE!
LARKIN, FROM CHICAGO, WOULD'VE DIED BUT THE JAPANESE PILOT, TSUMO MAKARI, HAD GROWN UP IN AN ISLAND FISHING VILLAGE! HE SHOWED LARKIN HOW TO SURVIVE
SOME DAY, FOG LEAVE....MAKE FIRE ..JAPANESE PLANE SEE SMOKE, SAVE US!
MAKE S RE S AN AMERICAN PLANE THAT FINDS JS!
TSUMO MAKARI KEPT THEM LIVING! AND LARKIN REFUSED THE HAND OF FRIENDSHIP WHICH MAKARI OFFERED....
GOOD FISH! S FOR DINNER TODAY!
I HATE HIM MORE THAN ANYONE I KNOW.

MAKARI SAW THE DAMAGED NATIVE BOAT BOBBING OFF-SHORE IN THE FRIGID WATERS.... AND HE WENT AFTER IT!
THAT WATER IS COLD BUT HE DOESN'T SEEM TO MIND IT!
WASH FROM ALEUTIAN VILLAGE IN STORM! STILL GOOD, EVEN HAS PADDLE! SEE? NOW WE PADDLE OUT TO JAPANESE SHIP!
THEN, ONE DAY IN 1942, A JAPANESE DESTROYER DID APPEAR JUST AS THE FOG LIFTED....
COME, LARKIN... GET IN KAYAK... WE ARE SAVED!
OH NO, WE'RE NOT, MAKARI!
I'M NOT GOING TO BE A JAP PRISONER!
YOU ARE EVIL MAN, LARKIN! MY LEG IS BROKEN....WHEN U.S. SHIP COMES, YOU TAKE ME OUT TO DOCTOR!
YOU THINK I'M A FOOL? WE'D BOTH DROWN...THE KAYAK'S ONLY BIG ENOUGH FOR ONE!
6

LARKIN WAS LUCKY! HE SPOTTED AN AMERICAN LIBERTY SHIP BLUNDERING HER WAY OFF-SHORE .THREE DAYS LATER AND PADDLED OUT... THEY PICKED HIM UP!
SHEER OFF FROM THE ISLAND.... THERE ARE TREACHEROUS REEFS!
TWENTY YEARS PASSED....THEN ABOUT 1965, AMOS LARKIN BEGAN IMAGINING THINGS! SUCH AS HEARING TSUMO MAKARI'S VOICE....
COME BACK TO TLAKLUK, LARKIN! I AM WAITING THERE FOR YOU!
THAT VOICE....IT SOUNDED LIKE MAKARI, THE JAP WHO SHOT US DOWN IN THE ALEUTIANS!
YOU SEE HOW LARKIN REMEMBERS? IT ISN'T 'MAKARI, THE JAP WHO SAVED MY LIFE'.... BUT, 'MAKARI, THE JAP WHO SHOT US DOWN!'
THE SMELL....I HAVEN'T SMELLED ANYTHING LIKE IT SINCE I WAS RESCUED FROM TLAKLUK!
WET FOOTPRINTS....
....THEY'RE THE KIND MAKARI ALWAYS LEFT!
7

LARKIN FOUND THE SEA-WEED....BUT HE THREW IT OUT THE WINDOW AND WENT TO BED, SEEKING SLEEP TO BLOT OUT THE MEMORIES THAT CAME FLOODING BACK! WHEN HE DID SLEEP, HE DREAMED HE WAS STILL AWAKE AND SAW....
COME BACK, LARKIN....I AM LONELY ON TLAKLUK! COME AND TALK WITH ME!
MAKARI MUST BE DEAD....BUT I'VE GOT TO BE SURE!
SO LARKIN FLEW TO ANCHORAGE, THEN FOUND A TRAWLER TO CARRY HIM WEST TO AMCHITKA, NEAR WHICH TLAKLUK WAS LOCATED....
CAPTAIN HANSEN WILL WAIT OFF-SHORE FOUR HOURS UNTIL I RADIO HIM TO COME BACK INSHORE!
I'LL FIND HIS SKELETON NEAR THE CAVE....HE COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN OFF THE ISLAND WITH HIS LEG BROKEN!
I KNEW YOU WOULD RETURN TO TLAKLUK, LARKIN....DID YOU KNOW TLAKLUK MEANS 'PLACE OF DEATH'?
MAKARI!!
I IMAGINED I HEARD HIS VOICE!
I'LL LOOK AT THE CAVE, THEN GET OFF THIS ACCURSED ISLAND!
8

THERE, LARKIN FOUND WHAT HE WAS LOOKING FOR....THE BLEACHED SKELETAL REMAINS OF TSUMO MAKARI!
HE'S DEAD....IT WAS MY IMAGINATION.... NOW, I CAN GO BACK TO CHICAGO.. AND FORGET ABOUT TLAKLUK!
NO, LARKIN....YOU CAN NEVER RETURN TO CHICAGO....I HAVE BEEN VERY LONELY FOR YOU!
NOW, YOU CANNOT RADIO THE TRAWLER....THEY WILL NOT COME BACK FOR YOU!
WH-WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?
I HAVE BEEN LONELY....I WISH YOU TO KEEP ME COMPANY HERE ON TLAKLUK....THE PLACE OF DEATH!
WE SHALL TALK ABOUT MANY THINGS, LARKIN.... WE HAVE AN ETERNITY TO SPEND TOGETHER!
END